



On the Green—A publication for Gallaudet faculty, teachers, and staff  
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## ASL poetry readings merge art, language, and political thought

By Katherine DeLorenzo  
A decade ago, deaf performers at the Deaf Way Festival were inspired to use a new sign for poetry, one that would shift the emphasis from aural poetry to signed poetic expression. A trio of performances this spring by poets using American Sign Language as their medium demonstrates the wide range of this art form.

Leading ASL poets Ella Mae Lentz and Joseph Castronovo, who performed on campus March 30 and April 13, respectively to packed Ely Auditorium audiences, left behind little doubt as to the range their performances encompass.

A well-known performer in the

deaf community, Lentz's poetry combines funny, touching, and often political themes, using handshapes, body movement, and expression to create humor, irony, and descriptive imagery. Her poems are sometimes adapted from written poetry, including two tributes written by and dedicated to Eric Malzkahn and Dorothy Miles, themselves well-known deaf performers. Others, like "Circle of Life," and "Eye Music," play on handshapes to create visual metaphor. Lentz's narrative poem chronicling her successful girlhood attempt to join a baseball game at a deaf picnic brought waves of laughter from the audience, as did her ironic



Popular ASL poet Ella Mae Lentz performs one of her poems at a March 30 performance.

portrayal of Signed Exact English in a political treatise on the early ASL movement.

Like Lentz, Castronovo's performance parallels deaf humor and the deaf experience of oppression and political awareness. His "PL-142" offers a powerful commentary on the impact of mainstreaming. The linguistic materials for Castronovo's poetry, however, differs sharply from Lentz's in that they incorporate not only other sign languages, such as French and Hebrew, but also play upon painting, numerology, and symbols to produce meaning. Where Lentz's poetry draws its strength from storytelling, Castronovo's material builds itself on visual puns and metaphor. In "Constellations," a

handshape is used to describe conquering death through rebirth, while a shoulder shrug in "The Sloping Shoulder" becomes a symbol for human interaction and acceptance of fate.

ASL performance, poetry, and storytelling, long a staple of deaf community gatherings, has been eliciting academic interest among scholars in recent years. English Professor Dirksen Bauman, one of the coordinators of the series, compares Castronovo to visual poets who incorporate seemingly diverse linguistic properties to create a unified theme. As with Clayton Valli and other well-known deaf poets, said Bauman, both Lentz and Castronovo follow the same "rules" for expression.

"All use the linguistic properties of  
*continued on page 4*



Lentz explains the stories and inspiration behind her poetry to her audience in Ely Auditorium.

## Fred Weiner to fill post of new Special Assistant to the President for Planning



Fred Weiner

Fred Weiner, '88, will begin his duties in the newly-created position of Special Assistant to the President for Planning on May 10. As a member of the President's Council, he will provide administrative leadership in

long-range institutional program planning, development, and evaluation, as well as serving as Gallaudet's Congressional liaison.

Since 1990, Weiner has been employed at AT&T, where he was involved with strategic planning. In 1996, he was selected to participate in an executive education program as a Brookings Congressional Fellow. While assigned to Congressman Robert Andrews' (D-NJ) office, he acquired a sound understanding of the legislative process and developed effective relationships with key members of Congress.

In positions at AT&T, the National Association of the Deaf, and while working in Congress, Weiner was often called upon to write Congressional testimony, legislative bills and amendments, speeches, and position papers. He also worked for one year for Gallaudet's Office of Alumni Relations, and his knowledge of the University will be an asset in his new position.



Standing from left: Agnes Muse, Kathy DeLorenzo, Sue Hotto, Patricia McCoy. Seated from left: Donna Butler, Beverly Hollrah, Sue Tyler.

## 'New blood' for SAC 1999-2001

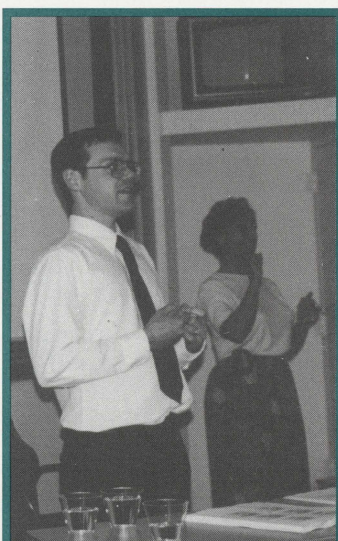
The Staff Advisory Committee (SAC), a group of Gallaudet employees charged with providing input on University policies and procedures which impact staff, welcomed seven new members in March.

Chair Agnes Muse (Personnel) and Vice-Chair Ricky Suiter (Pre-College National Mission Programs) are now joined by Donna Butler (Accounting), Beverley Hollrah (Sign Language/Professional Studies), Sue Hotto (Gallaudet Research Institute), Patricia McCoy (PCNMP), Dan Timlen (Academic

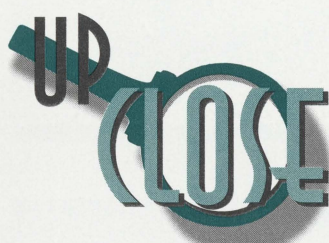
Advising/Career Center), Sue Tyler (Gallaudet Interpreting Services), and Kathy DeLorenzo (Public Relations).

In addition to functioning as liaison between staff and the president, members of the SAC serve on institutional committees and participate in the dispute resolution process by serving as the panel which hears staff grievances. SAC welcomes suggestions from staff; all correspondence is confidential and should be addressed to sac@gallua.gallaudet.edu or PO Box 2358.





Professor Scott Jones, a lecturer in Managerial Communication at Cornell University's School of Hotel Administration, presented the topic "Teaching and Researching in the Digital Age" on April 15. Jones' lecture focused on pedagogical and professional concerns related to using the World Wide Web for research, using PowerPoint for classroom and professional presentations, and communicating effectively with e-mail and Web materials. The presentation was sponsored by a Faculty Development Grant.



By Mike Kaika



Ava Morrow

**A**va Morrow, an assistant professor in the Biology Department who has been employed at Gallaudet for the past 19 years, is a microbiologist as well as a certified sign language interpreter. Ava and her sister, Sharon, own a sign language interpreting service called SHAR AVA.

It was while she was attending Western High School, an all-girl school in Baltimore, that Ava took her first sign language course. "We were required to take some elective courses and I opted for sewing," said Ava. "But soon, I found that sewing was an extremely difficult task for me because I am left-handed and sewing machines are designed for right-handed people." Instead, she decided to enroll in a sign language class. "This was one of the best things that ever happened to me," she said.

After high school, she entered Morgan State University and graduated with a degree in biology in 1980. She kept up with her sign language classes, and they have paid off wonderfully. "After I graduated from Morgan, I came

## Ava Morrow—can't sew, so she sign

into D.C. to apply for a job at a government agency and on the way in, I passed Gallaudet. I decided to stop and get some sign language books from the Bookstore," said Ava. "I passed through College Hall and saw a job opening for a lab technician. I said to myself, 'Why not?,' and applied."

Both Gallaudet and the government agency offered her jobs but she decided to accept Gallaudet's offer. "I felt Gallaudet had a lot to offer and being able to use my skills as a lab technician in a university setting, plus being able to communicate using sign language with students was just too much to pass up."

Jane Dillehay was the microbiologist at that time. "After working and assisting Dr. Dillehay for several years, I knew what I wanted to concentrate on in graduate school," said Ava. She went to Howard University, and in 1987 received her master's degree in microbiology.

Ava was lured to the Northwest Campus in 1987 by Dr. Ann Davidson, who served as dean of the School of Preparatory Studies. When the NWC closed in 1994, Ava came back to the main campus and became the microbiologist when Dillehay became dean of the College of Arts and Sciences.

Ava is now pursuing her doctorate degree (ABD), and in her spare time, she interprets. She can sew now—by hand—but prefers using her hands in a more creative and artistic atmosphere—on the stage and in her classes. Her accomplishments have not gone unrecognized—Ava is profiled in the April edition of *Working Woman Magazine*. **G**



The KanKouran West African Dancers and Drummers performed at Gallaudet on April 9 as part of the University's year-long multicultural celebration. The troupe has a long-standing relationship with MSSD, where it has conducted workshops and hosted performances involving students.



## ASK AUNT SOPHIE

Dear AS,

**I enjoy reading your work! For some time now, I have been aware of a second SOPHIE on campus, and I wonder if you are related? The SOPHIE I know is quite a gal—she chases balls, sticks, and University presidents. She is neither a student nor a member of the alumni, and I doubt if she is on the faculty. Perhaps some of your readers are not aware of her presence. Were you to check her out, you might tell us more about Gallaudet's mystery Sophie.**

Name Withheld

**P.S. Her signing skills may be questionable, but she wags a loving greeting.**

Dear Nameless,

Of course your Aunty knows you are referring to Gallaudet's most excellent canine, Sophie Jordan. She is a familiar fixture on our campus and beloved by all who make her acquaintance. And

while it's true that her expressive signing ability is limited, her receptive skills are rather impressive. To wit: If she is in the mood and if there is absolutely nothing to distract her (such as a bird, squirrel, or butterfly), she might "sit" or "stay" when asked to do so in ASL.

Sophie Jordan and I are both named in honor of Sophia Fowler Gallaudet, the mother of our own beloved Edward Miner Gallaudet. You may know that Sophia's husband, Thomas Hopkins Gallaudet, was the founder of our nation's first public school for deaf children in Connecticut.

So, yes, Sophie Jordan and I share a common bond, though I suspect she would rather we share a bone!

**If you have a burning question that you would like to ask Aunt Sophie, e-mail her at Public.relations@gallaudet.edu. Be sure you say your question is for Aunt Sophie.**



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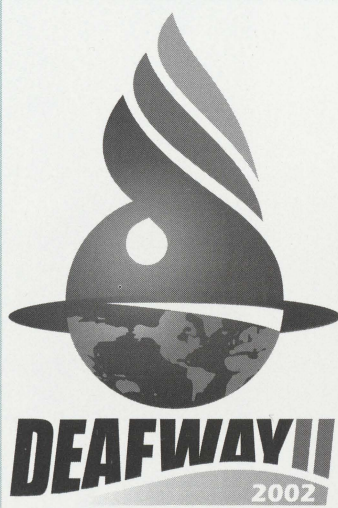
Katherine DeLorenzo

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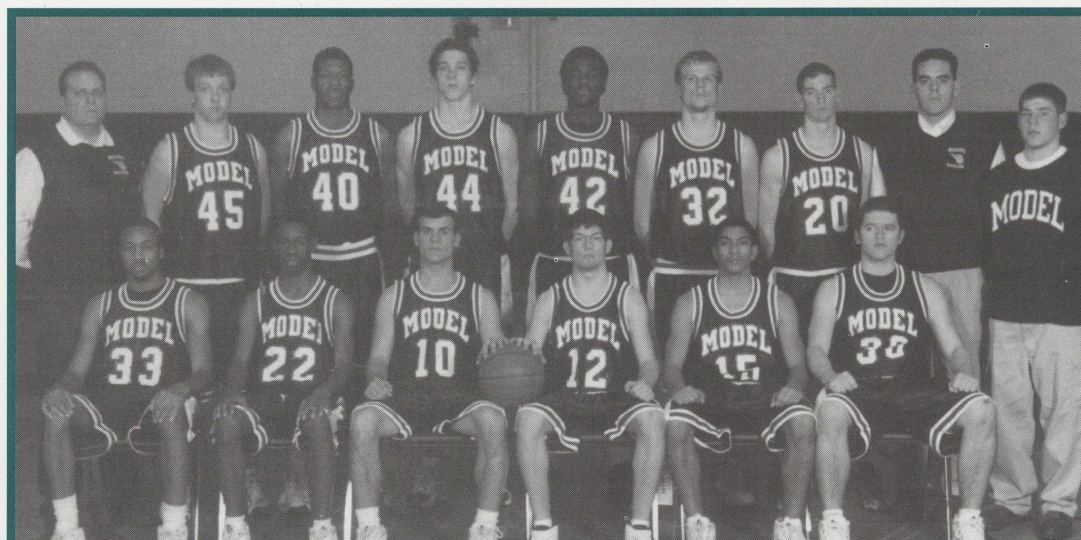
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The Deaf Way II logo is just the first step in planning for one of the biggest events ever to be held on Kendall Green. For all the latest information about DWII, go to the Website at: [deafway.gallaudet.edu](http://deafway.gallaudet.edu).



Finishing its season with a 22-6 record, the MSSD 1998-99 Boys Varsity Basketball team was named the National Deaf Prep Champions.

Check out 'On the Green's'  
Web version

Many of the articles and photographs that appear in each week's issue of *On the Green* can also be read in *On the Green's* Web version, the online version of Gallaudet's faculty/staff newsletter. *On the Green's* Web version can be accessed through the University's homepage.



## PCNMP HAPPENINGS

### Deaf and hard of hearing graduates: What are their experiences after high school?

By Gary Hotto and Susan Flanigan


The Illinois School for the Deaf (ISD), Jacksonville; and South Hills High School (SHHS), Deaf and Hard of Hearing Program, Covina-Valley Unified School District, West Covina, Calif., have been selected as collaborators for Pre-College National Mission Programs' 1999-2002 Partners for Progress initiative, "Transition from School to Postsecondary Education and Employment."

These programs were selected in a competitive review and selection process that included researchers, transition specialists, educators, parents, administrators, and members of the deaf community.

The three-year collaborative effort will focus on the exploration of deaf and hard of hearing high school graduates' experiences for the first five years after graduation. PCNMP, ISD, and SHHS will conduct a follow-up study of a selected group of their graduates.

The information from the study will guide the collaborating schools in reviewing and improving their transition programming.

The experiences of the graduates also will provide the content for transition instructional materials designed to facilitate the preparation of deaf and hard of hearing students for successful life experiences. Some of the graduates from the collaborating programs will appear in videotapes that will be a part of the instructional materials.

On May 3, 4, and 5, the collaborators will attend the first of a series of meetings with PCNMP personnel at Gallaudet to plan and implement the collaboration. The collaborators include Dr. Mickey Jones, director of the Evaluation Center, Mark Clodfelter, assistant principal, and Tiffani Steffy, transition coordinator, from the Illinois School for the Deaf. Representing South Hills High School will be Natalie Cormier, school psychologist, and teachers Tomas Garcia, Jr., and Marie Lubman. Updates on the transition projects can be found at the Partners for Progress Website: [www.gallaudet.edu/~eparweb/ptp.html](http://www.gallaudet.edu/~eparweb/ptp.html). 



A reception was held in honor of the Gallaudet University Women's Basketball Team, which entered the NCAA Division III Sweet Sixteen for the first time in University history. From left, standing: Assistant Coach Ben Baylor, Coach Kitty Baldrige, Ronda Jo Miller, Touria Quahid, Amelia England, Ronnie Zuchegno, managers Jenny Stack, Stephanie Jones, Paulina Wlostowski, Assistant Coach Jeff Wolfe. Kneeling: Jessica Whitney, Therese Rollven, Nanette Virnig, Shanada Johnson, and Ronda Johnson.



### WHAT'S HAPPENING... AND WHEN

(Note: for more information about University athletic events, call the Athletics Department at x5603; for MSSD athletic events, call x5361.)

**April 28**—ASL Poetry Series featuring Flying Words Project (Peter Cook and Kenny Lerner), 4:30 p.m., Ely Auditorium

**April 30**—1999 Annual Spring Bazaar, 9 a.m.-4 p.m., Ely Center

**May 3**—Last day of classes for undergraduate and graduate students; Spring Module: Plurality in ASL, 2-3 p.m., Merrill Learning Center, Room US-11, Learn how to indicate plurality in ASL.

**May 4**—Study Day

**May 4 and 6**—ASL Series: Non-manual Markers, 4-5 p.m., Merrill Learning Center, Room US-11, Learn how to use non-manual markers for adverbs and adjectives in ASL.

**May 5-8**—Final exam week

**May 9**—All dorms close at noon.

**May 10**—All grades due from faculty no later than 4 p.m.

### Deaf Pets of America gives new lease on life

By Todd Byrd

Steve Doleac, '88, recalls the urgent phone call he received in 1988 from his mother, who was visiting relatives in Louisiana. She had stumbled upon a dog breeder who was about to have two golden retriever puppies that he couldn't sell destroyed. Couldn't Steve please take them?, she pleaded.

Doleac couldn't bear the thought of the pups suffering such a fate, so the breeder had them

flown to Doleac's home in Hampton, Va., and into the waiting arms of Steve and his brother, Craig Doleac.

So began Steve Doleac's commitment to seeing that no pets are destroyed for lack of love. In 1991 he founded Deaf Pets of America, an agency that finds homes for unwanted pets—particularly those that are deaf. To date, he has a

*continued on page 4*



Steve Doleac shares a moment with his rescued pets (from left): "Rusty," a golden retriever; "Chesapeake," a deaf cat; "Bear," a deaf-blind yellow Labrador retriever; and "Kendall," a deaf dalmatian.

### AMONG OURSELVES By Katherine DeLorenzo

**President I. King Jordan** became the first alumnus to be inducted into the Gallaudet University chapter of Psi Chi, which honors academic excellence in the field of psychology. Dr. Jordan was joined by psychology faculty inductees **Dr. Lynne Blennerhassett**, **Dr. Dennis Galvan**, and **Deborah Maxwell**, as well as eleven graduate and undergraduate students who achieved Psi Chi honors.

**Dr. Carol Traxler**, research scientist II in the Gallaudet Research Institute, and her husband, **Herbert**, were presented with Austrian Decorations of Merit in Gold by Austrian Ambassador Helmuth Tuerk during a farewell party for the ambassador, who returned to Austria in March to become President Klestil's chief of staff. The medals honored the Traxlers' contributions to the promotion of Austrian folk dance and music, as well as the Viennese waltz, in the Washington, D.C., area.

**Dr. Lois Bragg**, an English Department professor, has been selected as editor for a deaf studies reader to be published next year by New York University


Press. The work will include primarily deaf authors, starting with an autobiographical essay by Laurent Clerc, and progressing chronologically with essays focusing on deaf community and culture. Members of the Gallaudet community interested in learning more about the project should contact the editor at [lbragg@gallua.gallaudet.edu](mailto:lbragg@gallua.gallaudet.edu).

**Willy Conley**, Theatre Arts professor and playwright, recently received a prestigious National Theatre Artist Residency grant from Theatre Communications Group in New York. The grant will allow Conley to continue his collaboration with Center Stage in Baltimore, which produced a staged reading of Conley's play *The water falls* three years ago, and which has since opened its auditions to deaf actors. As part of his work with Center Stage, Conley will serve as a consultant, assisting Center Stage in incorporating deaf theater artists in productions and widening its deaf audience base. He is also writing an original one-act play for the National Theatre of the Deaf's national tour in 2001.

**Dr. Barbara Gerner de Garcia**, an associate professor in the

Department of Educational Foundations and Research, has been selected as a Fulbright Scholar for the 1999-2000 academic year. During her fall 1999 sabbatical, she will be a visiting lecturer and researcher at the Federal University of Rio Grande do Sul in Porto Alegre, Brazil. (Look for a feature article on Gerner de Garcia in an upcoming issue of *On the Green*.)

**Louise Stern**, a Gallaudet student, and three other scholarship recipients were honored at a recent American News Women's Club awards dinner in March. Stern, a double major in Art History and Journalism, was nominated for the \$2,500 award by English Professors **Shirley Shultz Myers** and **Pia Seagrave**. *The Washington Post* columnist Dorothy Gilliam was guest speaker at the event. The Washington, D.C., based American News Women's Club fosters networking and career opportunities for women media professionals.

Got a tidbit for us? Send your department news, noteworthy mentions, award-winners, and heroes both sung and unsung to "Among Ourselves" at *On the Green!* 





Leeann Carrera, ASL instructor for the College for Continuing Education (seated left) conducted Beginning ASL classes for staff personnel working in Senator Jim Jeffords' (R-VT) Capitol Hill office. Gallaudet alumnus Sean Phillips ('96; standing third from left) is currently a staff member in Jeffords' office.

## Deaf pets

*continued from page 3*

100 percent success rate, finding caring owners for 25 deaf dogs and cats.

"I'm an animal lover," confessed Doleac, who works in MSSD's Co-Curricular Program Activities Office. "Sometimes I think I love them more than people," he added jokingly.

Doleac's decision to form DPOA came in 1991 after he received another call—this time from an animal shelter in New York with a deaf dalmatian that was about to be destroyed. "I really don't know where or who or how they found out about me, but I got this call out of nowhere from a person who said, 'I hear you find homes for deaf dogs.' And I said, 'Yeah, I'll do anything I can to prevent a dog from being put to sleep.'" He took the dalmatian, and found a home for him.

Later, his wife, Sue, saw a newspaper ad seeking a home for a deaf dalmatian. The Doleacs called and got her the same day.


Being a loyal Gallaudet alumnus, they named her 'Kendall.' Adopting the dog also made him decide to make sure that no pets are lost, simply because they are deaf.

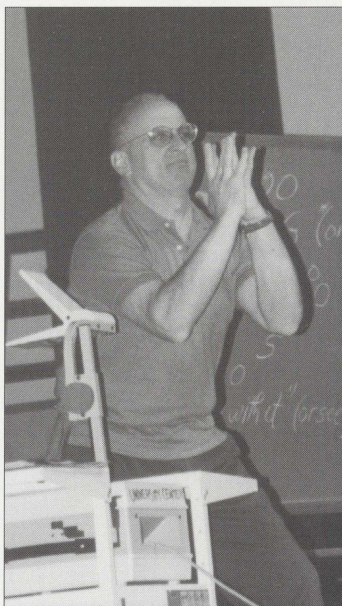
Most of the pets that Doleac finds homes for are dogs—mainly dalmatians, for whom deafness is common—but also a boxer, a pit bull, and an Australian cattle dog. "But I don't discriminate against any pets," said Doleac, adding that in addition to cats, he knows of deaf birds, even deaf horses—although he has never had any come under his charge so far.

When he learns that a deaf pet is up for adoption, Doleac posts the information on DPOA's e-mail distribution list. "There are about 50 people on the list so far, which sounds like a small number, but if they can keep a pet for a few weeks until a permanent owner is found, or adopt it, or get the word out, that's fine," he said.

"Deaf pets make very loving

and caring companions for all pet owners," said Doleac. "They just want to be loved and they love back plenty."

For more information about DPOA, or to get on its distribution list, contact Doleac at [Steven.Doleac@Gallaudet.edu](mailto:Steven.Doleac@Gallaudet.edu). 




Poet Joseph Castronovo performs to a packed house in Ely Auditorium April 13.

## Poetry

*continued from page 1*

ASL in their poetry," explained Bauman. Peter Cook and Kenny Lerner of The Flying Words Project, he explained, differ somewhat from this group, in that visual perception, rather than linguistic properties, takes precedence.

A performance by the Flying Words Project will close the series on April 28. The American Sign Language Poetry readings are sponsored by a grant written by members of the English and Deaf Studies departments, Dirksen Bauman, Dr. Benjamin Bahan, Arlene Kelly, and Carolyn McCaskill-Emerson. 

## NOTES FROM PERSONNEL

### Service awards for February

#### Five years:

**Francisca Rangel**, ASL/DC/MC specialist; **Carolyn Ressler**, interpreter III

#### Ten years:

**Sharon Greenhow**, secretary III; **Richard Jones**, administrative secretary I

#### Fifteen years:

**Lillie Ackerman**, executive secretary; **Lloyd Ballinger**, manager; **Carolyn Emerson**, assistant professor; **Freddie Green**, maintenance mechanic III; **Harvey Grossinger**, database administrator; **Larry Mohler**, shift supervisor; **Sharon Trout-Atalig**, administrative assistant; **Andrew Wright**, campus security officer

#### Twenty years:

**Ethelyn Destefano**, administrative secretary II; **Melvia Miller-Nomeland**, teacher/researcher

#### Twenty-five years:

**Herbert Rosen**, senior application programmer; **Bettie Waddy-Smith**, speech pathologist

### Promotions in February:

**Gerald Bell**, chief medical officer, Student Health Services; **Sodantha Guion**, secretary III, Child Development Center; **John Janschek**, maintenance mechanic I, Maintenance Services

### Service awards for March

#### Five years:

**Marybel Balan**, registered nurse; **Kenneth Buckley**, finish-

er I, **Tyrone Johnson**, finisher II, **Chester Parsons**, carpenter I

#### Ten years:

**Vanessa Slade-Bratcher**, administrative secretary II; **Donna Thomas**, coordinator

#### Fifteen years:

**Michael Delauder**, maintenance mechanic I

#### Twenty years:

**Cathryn Carroll**, managing editor

#### Twenty-five years:

**Jo-Anne Jones**, manager

### New employees hired in March

**Ethel Harrison**, assistant teacher, Child Development Center; **John Skjeveland**, staff internal auditor, Internal Audit; **Leslie Smith**, custodian, Custodial Services; **Nora Chidlow**, archives technician, Archives Digitization; **Julia Coleman**, speech pathologist, Office of Assistant Director, PCNMP; **Elice Patterson**, registration/records assistant, Registrar's Office; **Steffan Savoy**, groundskeeper trainee, Grounds Services; **Gregory Williams**, custodian, Custodial Services; **Shannon Williams-Ferguson**, executive secretary/graphic designer, School of Education; **Trina Schooley**, development associate, Development Office; **Darlene Prickett**, administrative secretary II/interpreter, Visitors Center/Public Relations; **Jay Luker**, associate professor, Audiology; **Peter Myers**, coordinator, Career Center



The Department of Television, Photography and Educational Technology and The Center for Global Education sponsored "Light and Design," an exhibit of the works of Johanna Kumlin, a visiting photographer from Finland who is currently studying at Gallaudet under the auspices of the University's international internship program. Above: TPET Professor Donna McLean-Cantor (left), who had her own photography exhibit recently, poses with Kumlin at the exhibit's opening on April 9.



Art Department Chair and lifelong student Dr. William Moses could be found honing his painting skills alongside several teachers and other students of artist-in-residence Mary Thornley, who took advantage of the beautiful weather earlier this month to paint building and landscape scenes.